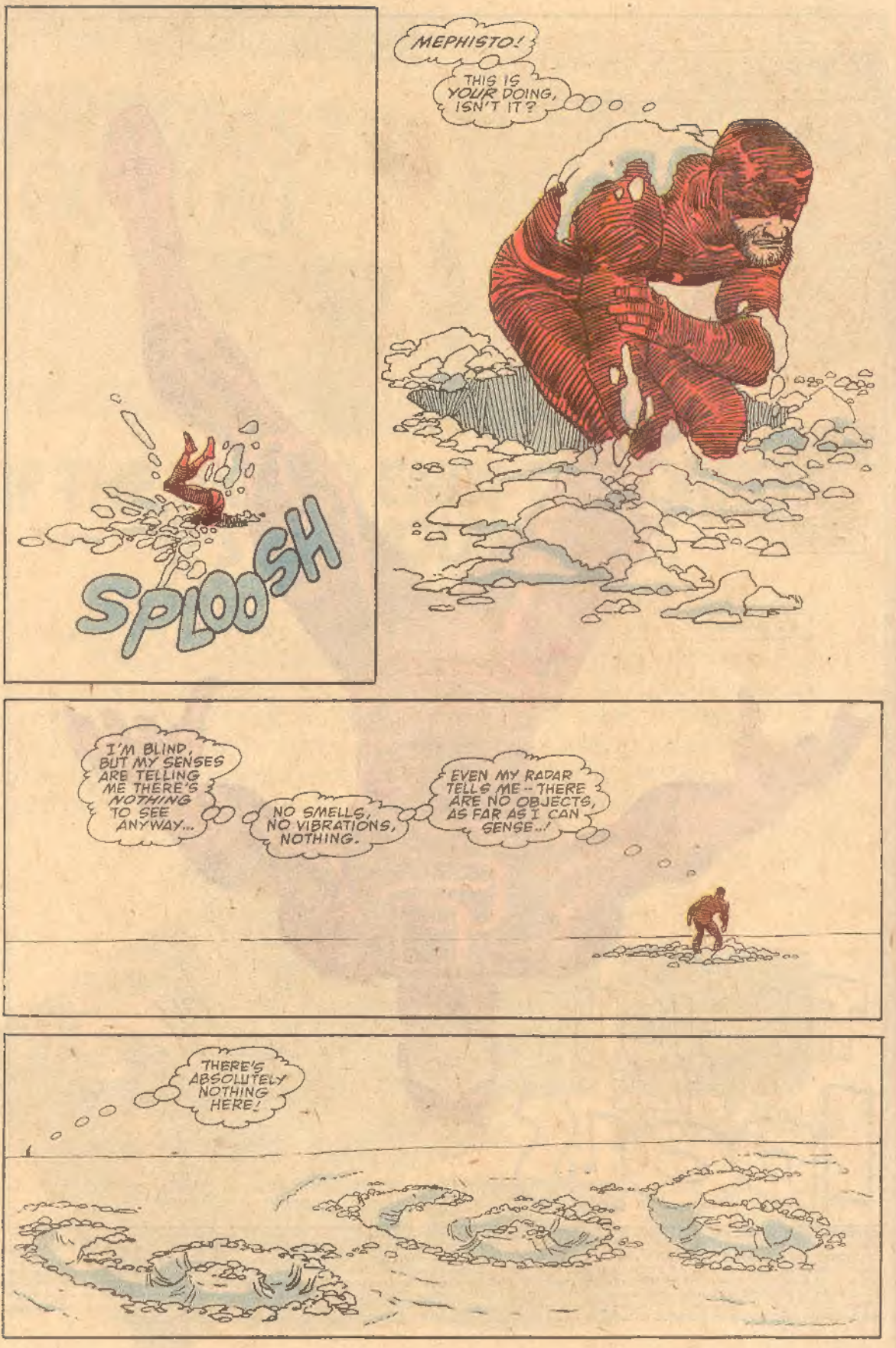
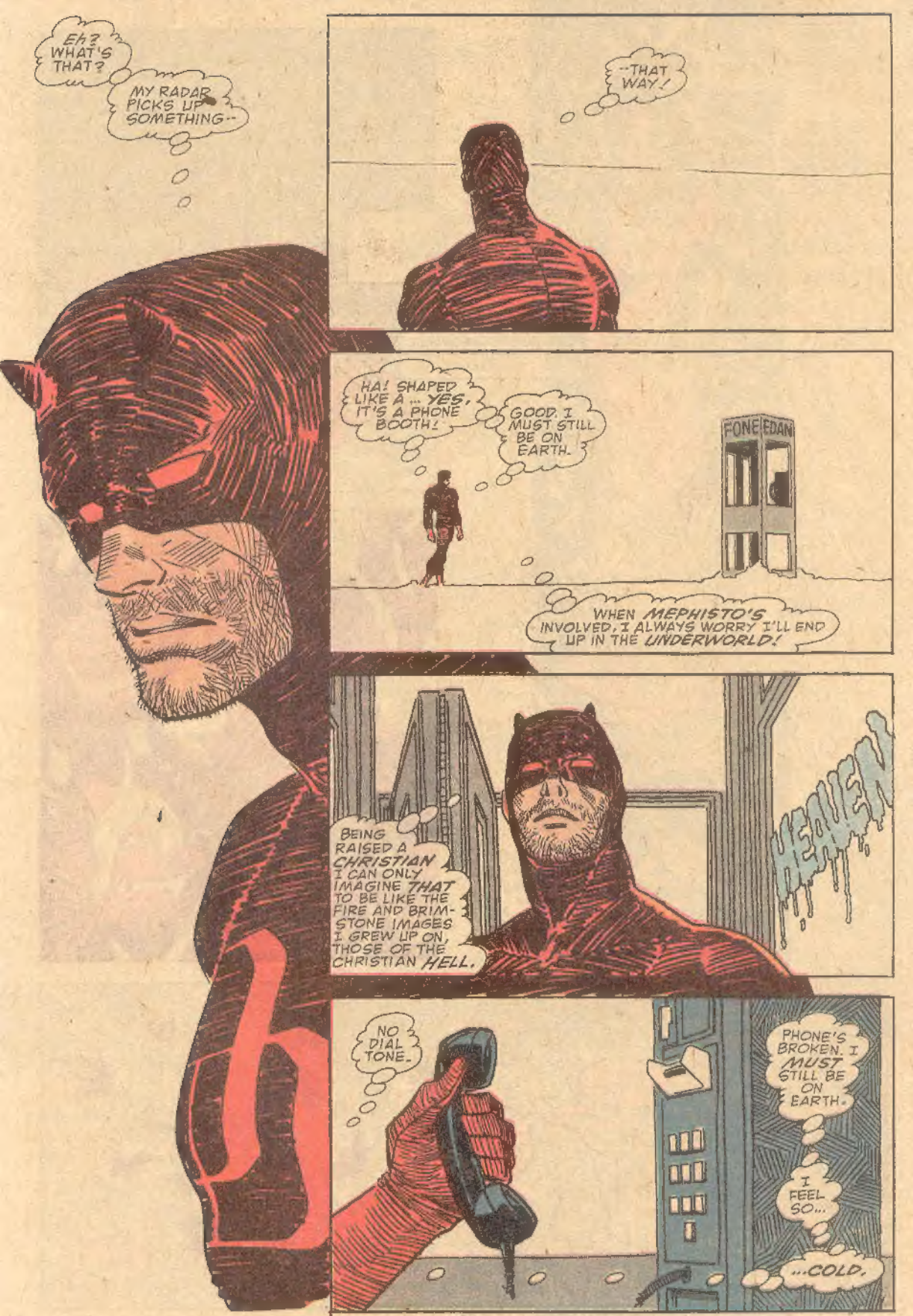
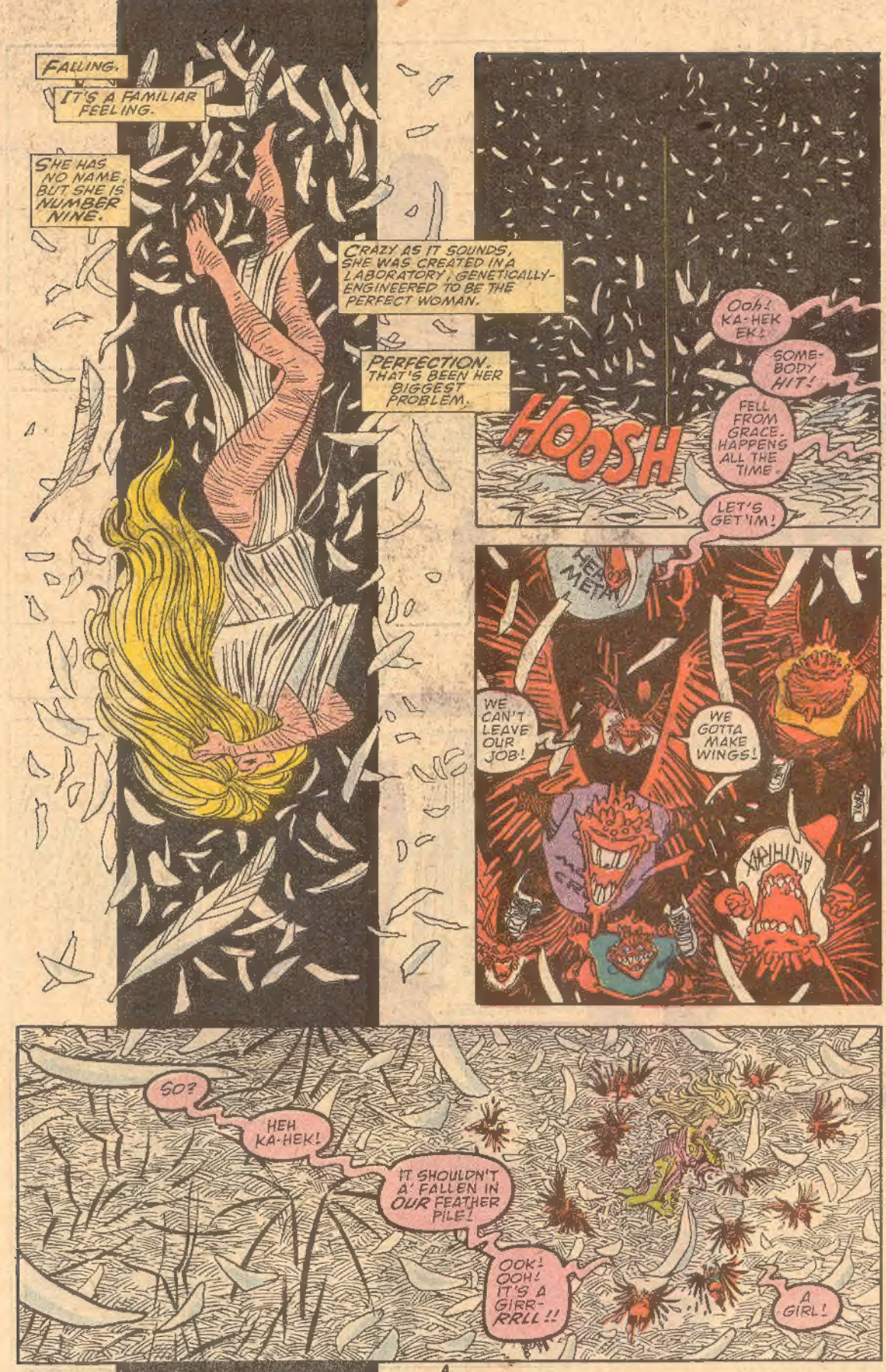
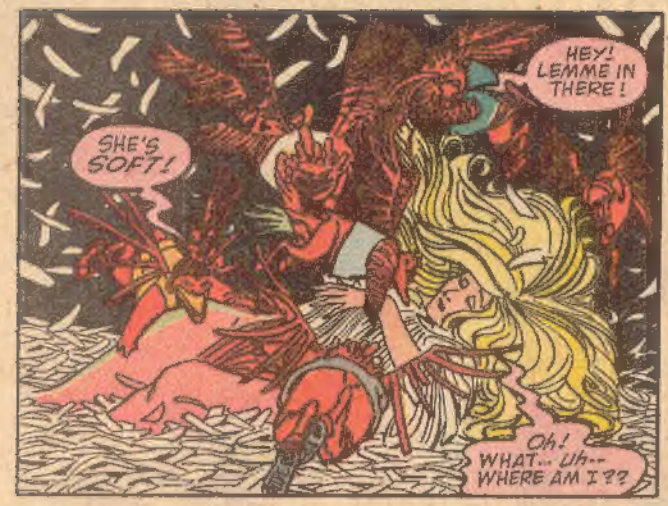
MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
$1.00 US
$1.25 CAN
280
MAY
02459
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
JR JR
AW
FIRE AND ICE IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD!

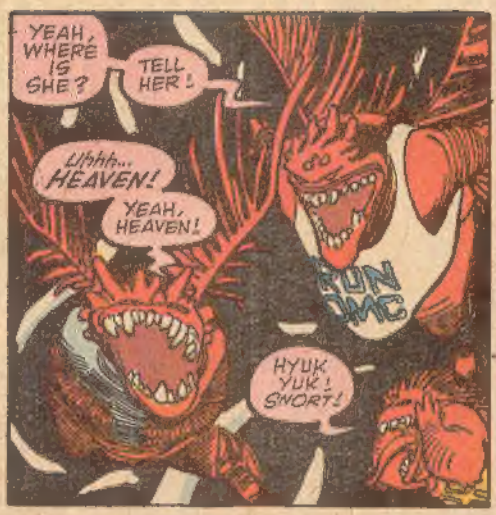
DAREDEVIL Vol. 1, No. 280, May, 1990. (ISSN# 0279-8271) Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1990 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.00 per copy in the U.S. and $1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $12.00, Canada $17.00, and foreign $24.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. DAREDEVIL (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO DAREDEVIL, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**


SPLOOSH
MEPHISTO!
THIS IS YOUR DOING, ISN'T IT?
I'M BLIND, BUT MY SENSES ARE TELLING ME THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE ANYWAY...
NO SMELLS, NO VIBRATIONS, NOTHING.
EVEN MY RADAR TELLS ME -- THERE ARE NO OBJECTS, AS FAR AS I CAN SENSE..!
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HERE!


EH? WHAT'S THAT?
MY RADAR PICKS UP SOMETHING--
--THAT WAY!
HA! SHAPED LIKE A ... YES, IT'S A PHONE BOOTH!
GOOD. I MUST STILL BE ON EARTH.
FONE
EDAN
WHEN MEPHISTO'S INVOLVED, I ALWAYS WORRY I'LL END UP IN THE UNDERWORLD!
BEING RAISED A CHRISTIAN I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT TO BE LIKE THE FIRE AND BRIMSTONE IMAGES I GREW UP ON, THOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN HELL.
HEAVEN
NO DIAL TONE.
PHONE'S BROKEN. I MUST STILL BE ON EARTH.
I FEEL SO...
...COLD.

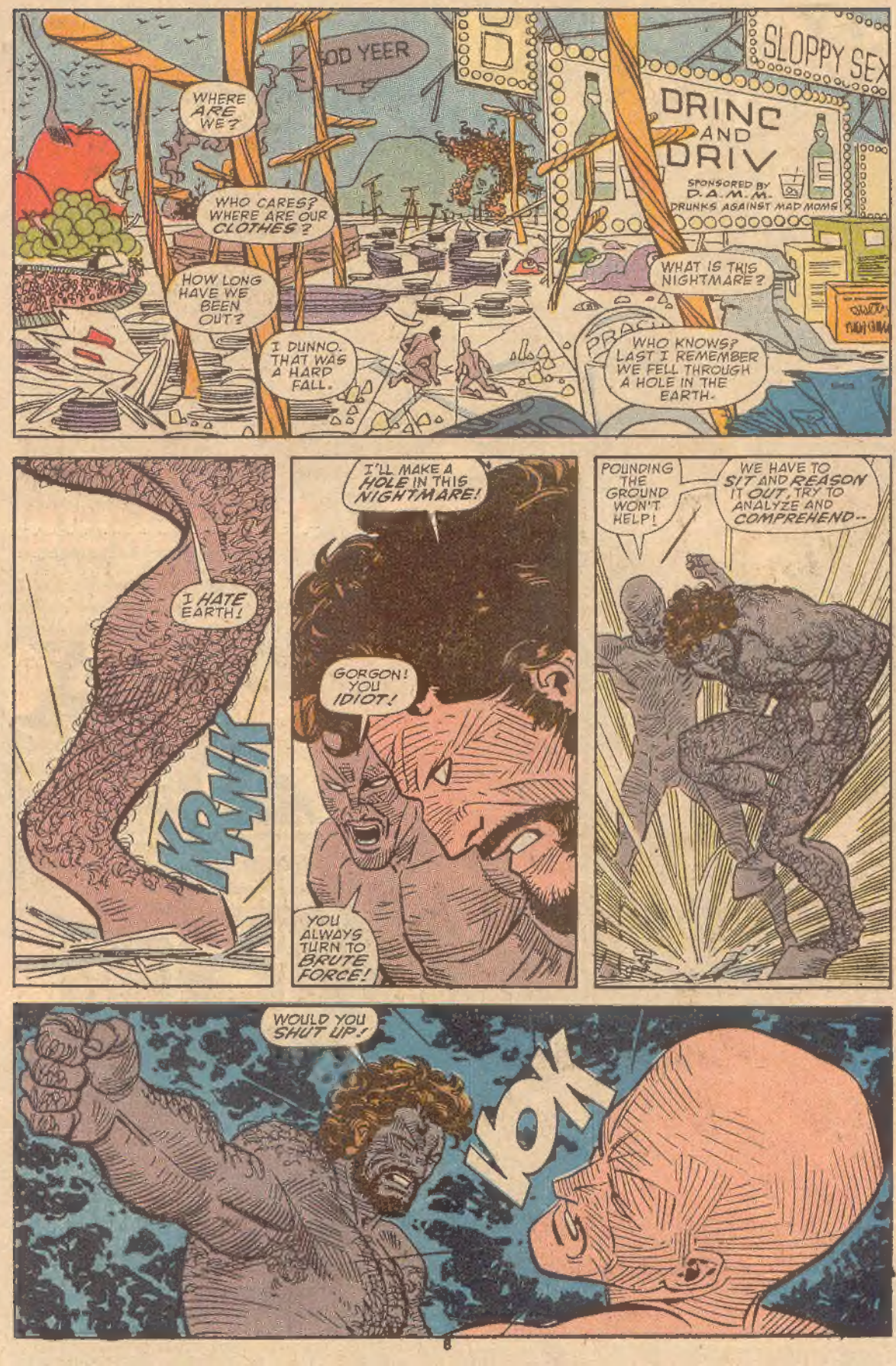

FALLING.
IT'S A FAMILIAR FEELING.
SHE HAS NO NAME, BUT SHE IS NUMBER NINE.
CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS, SHE WAS CREATED IN A LABORATORY, GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED TO BE THE PERFECT WOMAN.
PERFECTION. THAT'S BEEN HER BIGGEST PROBLEM.
HOOSH
OOH! KA-HEK EK!
SOME-BODY HIT!
FELL FROM GRACE. HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
LET'S GET 'IM!
HEAD'S METAL
WE CAN'T LEAVE OUR JOB!
WE GOTTA MAKE WINGS!
ANTHRAX
GO?
HEH KA-HEK!
IT SHOULDN'T A' FALLEN IN OUR FEATHER PILE!
OOK! OOH! IT'S A GIRR-RRLL!!
A GIRL!

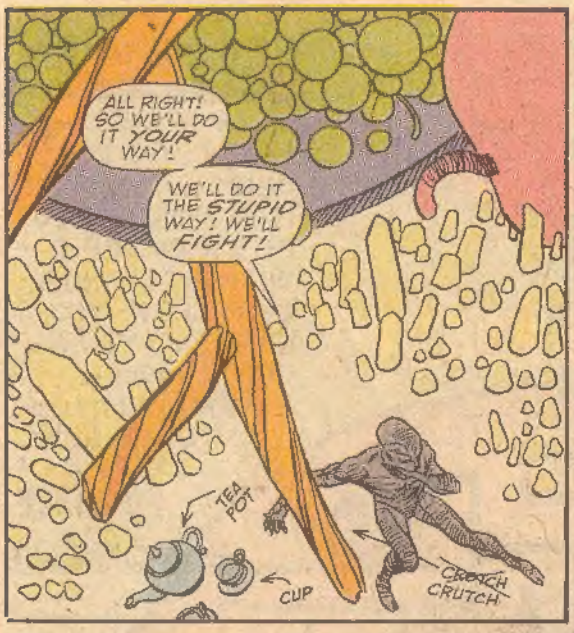

HEY! LEMME IN THERE!
SHE'S SOFT!
Oh! WHAT... Uh-- WHERE AM I??


YEAH, WHERE IS SHE?
TELL HER!
Uhhh... HEAVEN!
YEAH, HEAVEN!
HYUK, YUK! SNORT!

FALLING...
GORGON! IT'S ENDLESS!
NO, IT'S NOT-- LOOK OUT!!

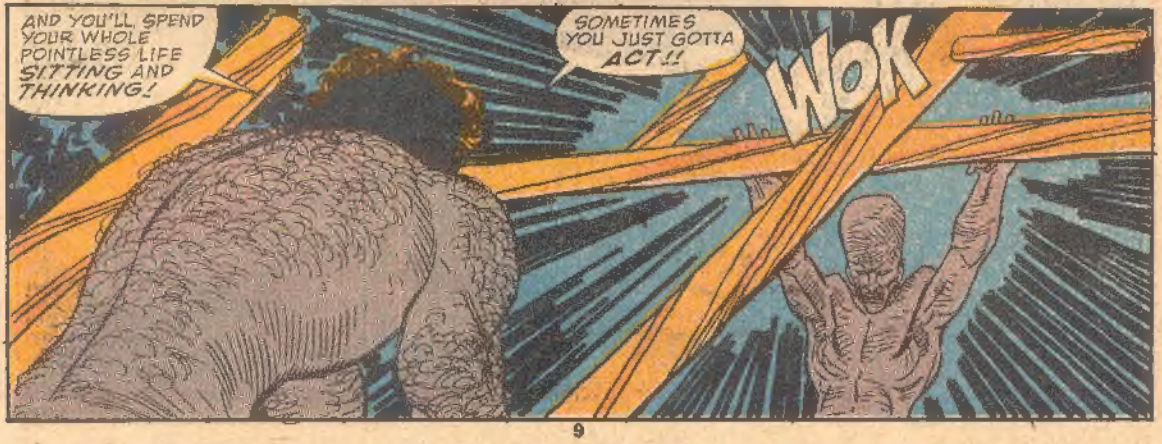
KR-KRSKH


SLOPPY SEX
DRINC AND DRIV
SPONSORED BY D.A.M.M. DRUNKS AGAINST MAD MOMS
WHERE ARE WE?
WHO CARES? WHERE ARE OUR CLOTHES?
HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN OUT?
I DUNNO. THAT WAS A HARD FALL.
WHAT IS THIS NIGHTMARE?
WHO KNOWS? LAST I REMEMBER WE FELL THROUGH A HOLE IN THE EARTH.
I HATE EARTH!
KRAK
I'LL MAKE A HOLE IN THIS NIGHTMARE!
GORGON! YOU IDIOT!
YOU ALWAYS TURN TO BRUTE FORCE!
POUNDING THE GROUND WON'T HELP!
WE HAVE TO SIT AND REASON IT OUT, TRY TO ANALYZE AND COMPREHEND--
WOULD YOU SHUT UP!
LOK


ALL RIGHT! SO WE'LL DO IT YOUR WAY!
WE'LL DO IT THE STUPID WAY! WE'LL FIGHT!
TEA POT
CUP
CROTCH CRUTCH

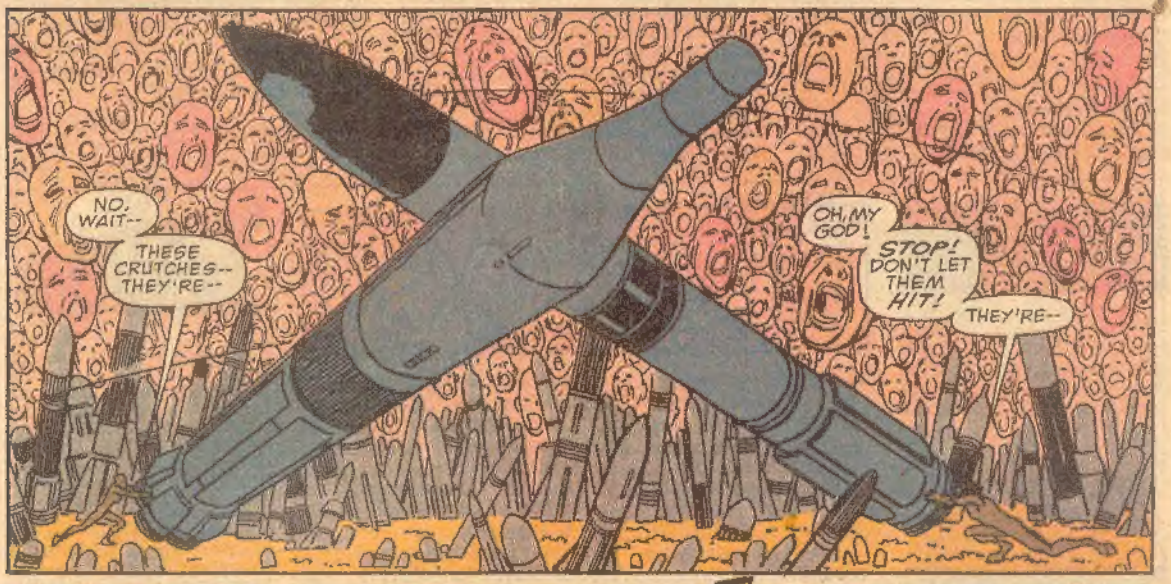
FINE BY ME!

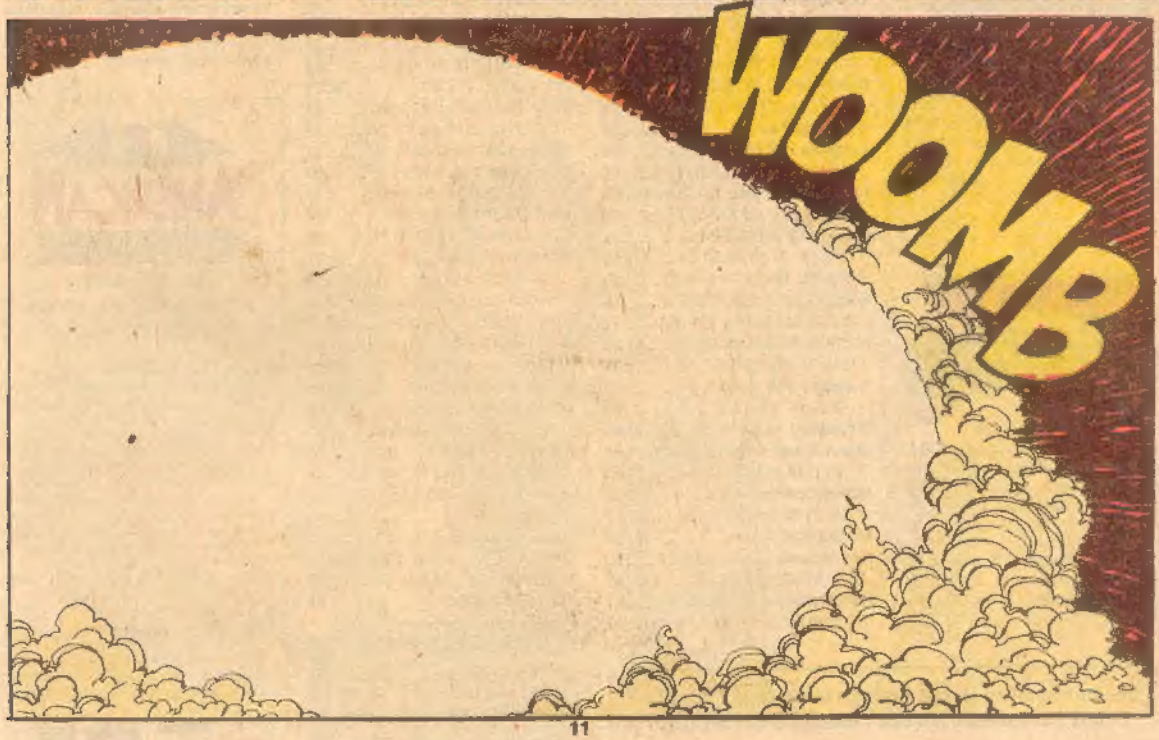
CRACK
YOU'LL NEVER LEARN! NEVER LEARN TO USE YOUR HEAD!

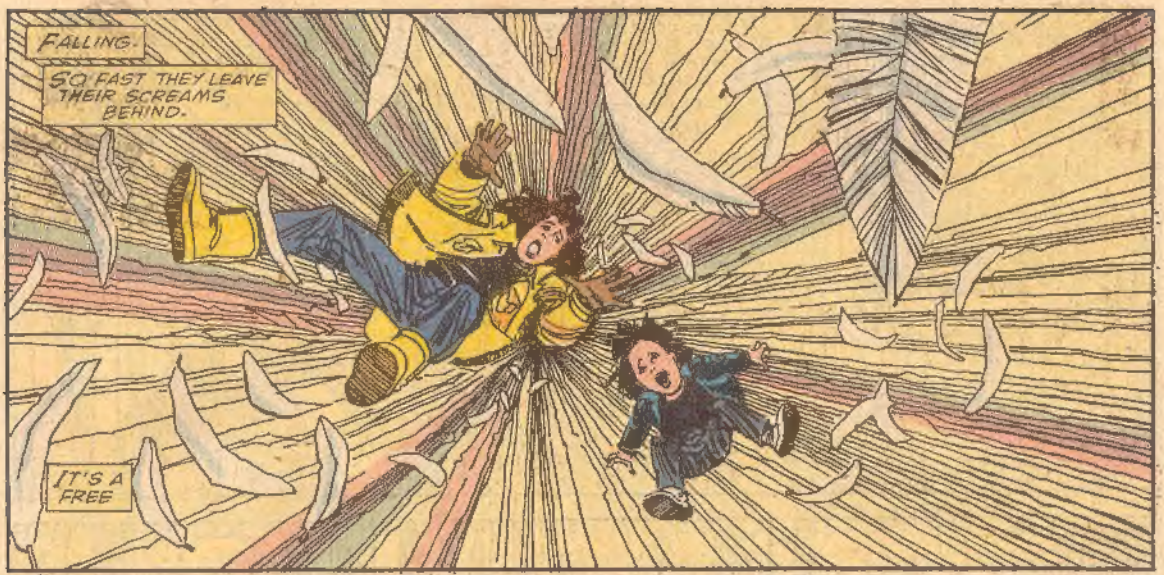

AND YOU'LL SPEND YOUR WHOLE POINTLESS LIFE SITTING AND THINKING!
SOMETIMES YOU JUST GOTTA ACT!!
WOK

DO SOMETHING- ANYTHING!

ALL RIGHT! I'M DOING IT!! JUST REMEMBER, FIGHTING ALWAYS ESCALATES INTO--


NO, WAIT-- THESE CRUTCHES-- THEY'RE--
OH, MY GOD! STOP! DON'T LET THEM HIT!
THEY'RE--


WOOMB


FALLING.
SO FAST THEY LEAVE THEIR SCREAMS BEHIND.
IT'S A FREE

FALL
WAKE UP WAKE UP WAKE UP!
C'MON, BRANDY.
I KEEP HEARIN' THINGS.
WAKE UP WAKE UP!

WHAT'S THAT DISGUSTING SMELL?
YOU'RE AWAKE! I WAS SO--!
WHY ARE WE ALIVE?

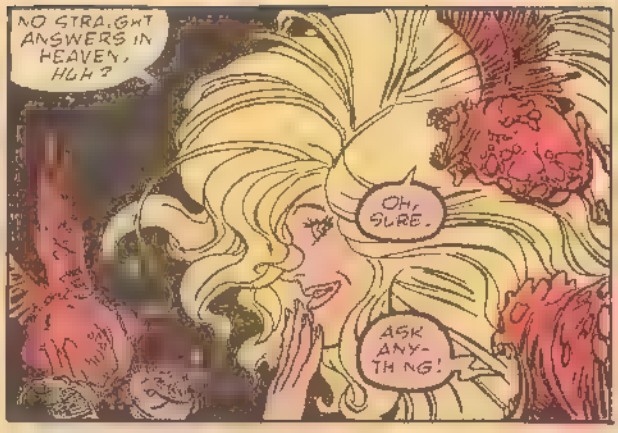
WE MUST'VE FALLEN FOR MILES! WE SHOULD BE DEAD!
WELL, I THINK--
WE GOTTA CLIMB. ONLY WAY OUT IS UP, POPE.

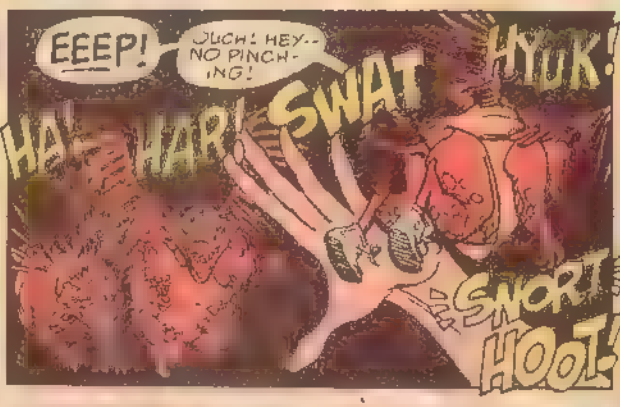
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE LEAST IMPOSSIBLE CLIFF TO CLIMB.
LET'S SEE, THIS CLIMB WILL TAKE US...
... OH, GOD, PROBABLY MONTHS!
BRANDY, UHMM... IT'S HARD FOR ME TO REACH...

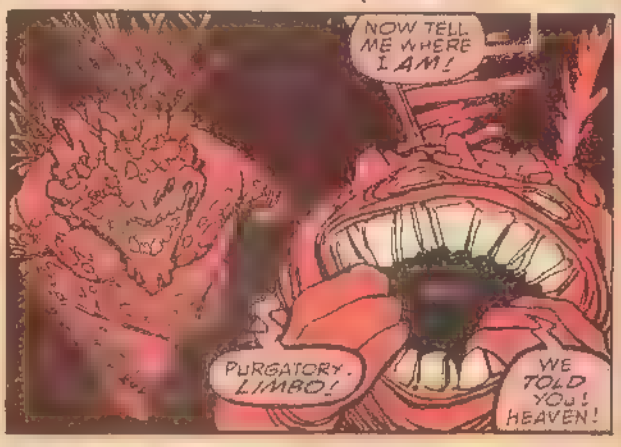
WELL, SOMEBODY'S BEEN HERE BEFORE. ARTISTS SCULPTORS - GOOD ONES, TOO.
THESE CARVINGS ARE FAMILIAR.. HEY, THAT'S ODIN! A NORSE GOD
AND THAT'S SHIVA? OR BUDDHA? SOME EASTERN GOD.
OUCH! HRMMM
I CAN'T REACH.
HEY EVEN THE MADONNA, A CHRISTIAN GOD OR WHATEVER SHE WAS.
UGH! HRMM OW!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GET UP HERE!
WHAT KIND OF A NAME IS POPE ANYWAY?
I DUNNO. THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME.
CRIPES.
IT'S GONNA BE A LONG CLIMB!
BRANDY?
LET'S SEE WHICH WAY NOW?
BRANDY?
WHAT?!
FUN?
FUN?
COULDN'T WE TRY TO HAVE SOME FUN GETTING THERE?
YOU'RE A WEIRD KID.
HEHEK HEHEK! SNORT!

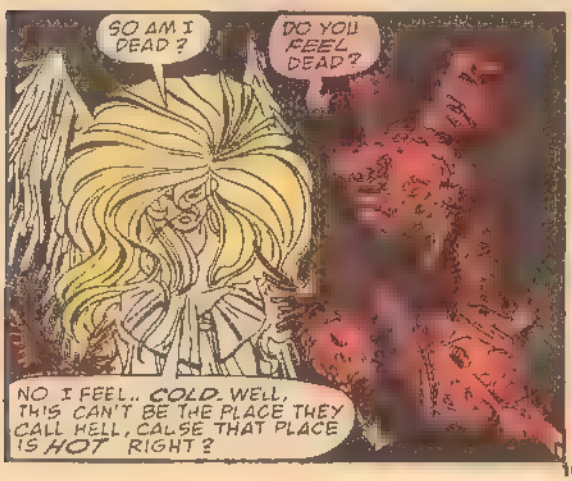
COLD.
A TERMINAL WINTER.
WHERE AM I?
I THOUGHT THIS WAS MEPHISTO'S DOING, BUT NOW I'M NOT SURE.
MAYBE I'M JUST TOO COLD.
WE FELL THROUGH A HOLE IN THE EARTH, AND
DID WE DIE?
NO. THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
BUT IF THIS ISN'T MEPHISTO'S UNDERWORLD, THEN IT MIGHT BE...
MIGHT BE...
NO. I WAS GOOD. I SAVED PEOPLE I DID GOOD THINGS... I WAS A HERO... THIS...
MAKES A LOT OF SENSE.
IF THIS IS HELL...
...WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED TO BE HERE?
ANOTHER PHONE-BOOTH!
THANK GOD THIS MUST BE EARTH.
MY BRAIN'S JUST SO COLD I'M THINKING CRAZY.

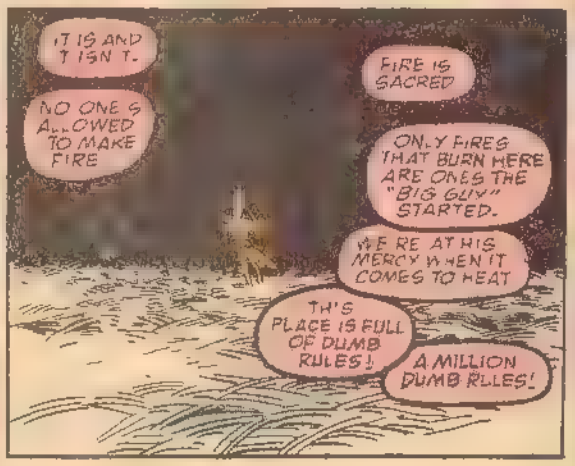
AIN'T SHE PRETTY?
I'M AN ANGEL NOW, RIGHT?
YUP.
MAYBE.
DEPENDS.
HNNK! SNORT!

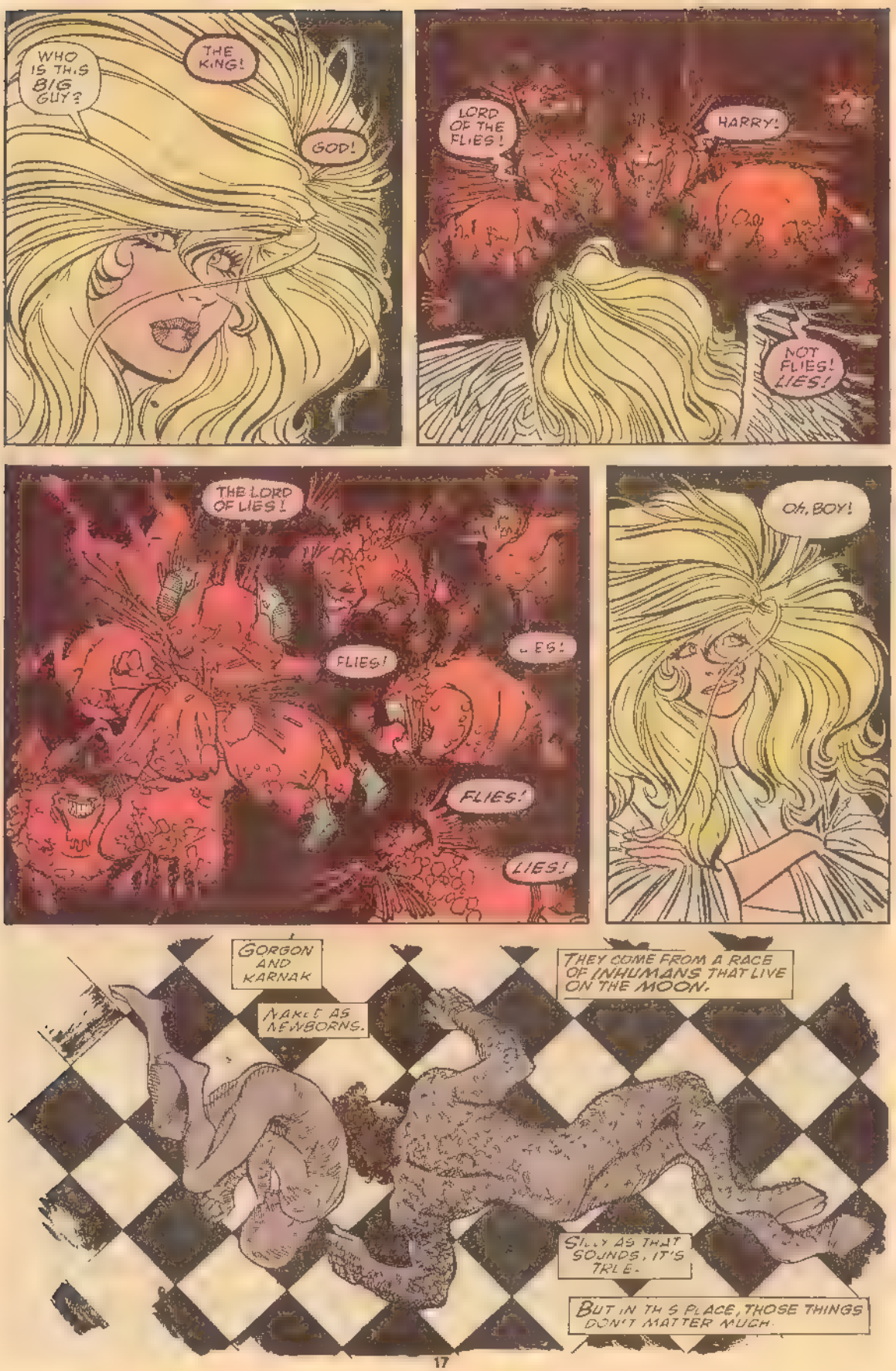

NO STRAIGHT ANSWERS IN HEAVEN, HUH?
OH, SURE.
ASK ANY-TH NG!

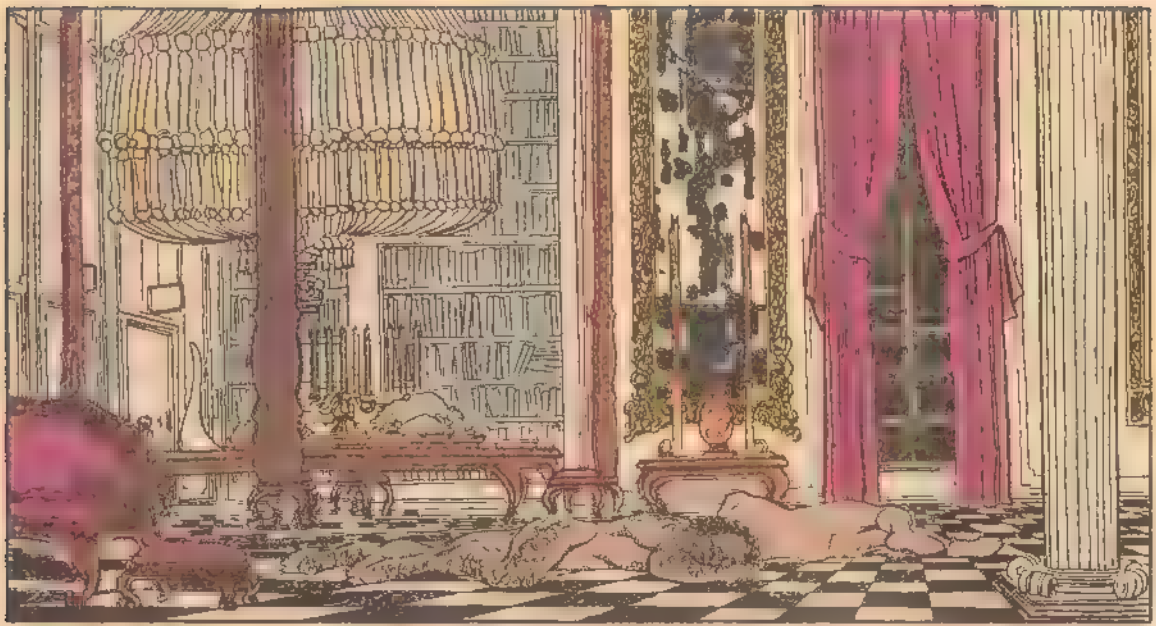

EEEP!
OUCH! HEY-- NO PINCH-ING!
HA! HAR! SWAT
HYUK!
SNORT!
HOOT!


NOW TELL ME WHERE I AM!
PURGATORY. LIMBO!
WE TOLD YOU! HEAVEN!

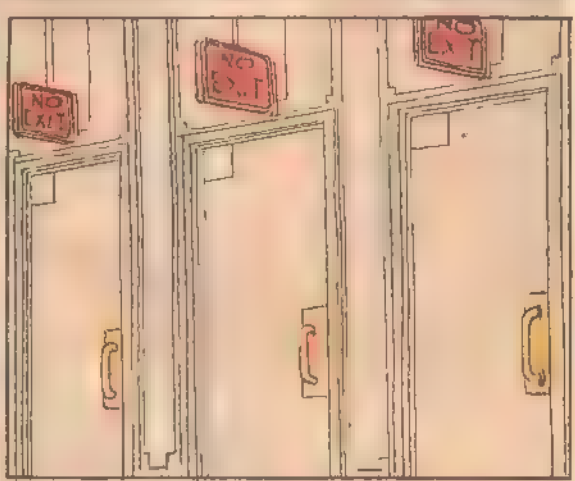

SO AM I DEAD?
DO YOU FEEL DEAD?
NO. I FEEL.. COLD. WELL, THIS CAN'T BE THE PLACE THEY CALL HELL, CAUSE THAT PLACE IS HOT RIGHT?

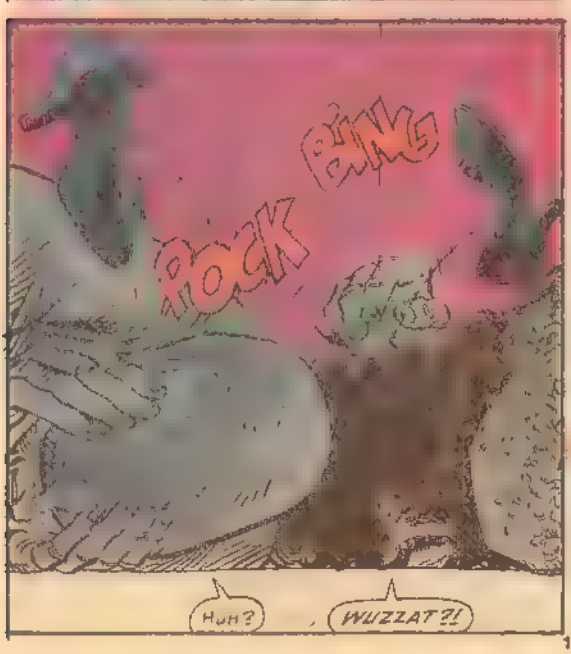

IT IS AND IT ISN'T.
NO ONE'S ALLOWED TO MAKE FIRE
FIRE IS SACRED
ONLY FIRES THAT BURN HERE ARE ONES THE "BIG GUY" STARTED.
WE'RE AT HIS MERCY WHEN IT COMES TO HEAT
TH'S PLACE IS FULL OF DUMB RULES!
A MILLION DUMB RLLES!

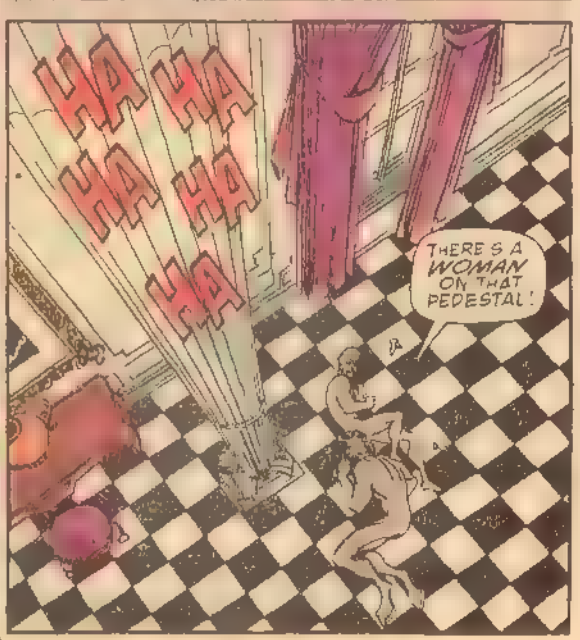

WHO IS THIS BIG GUY?
THE KING!
GOD!
LORD OF THE FLIES!
HARRY!
NOT FLIES! LIES!
THE LORD OF LIES!
FLIES!
FLIES!
LIES!
OH, BOY!
GORGON AND KARNAK
NAKED AS NEWBORNS.
THEY COME FROM A RACE OF INHUMANS THAT LIVE ON THE MOON.
SILLY AS THAT SOUNDS, IT'S TRUE.
BUT IN THIS PLACE, THOSE THINGS DON'T MATTER MUCH.

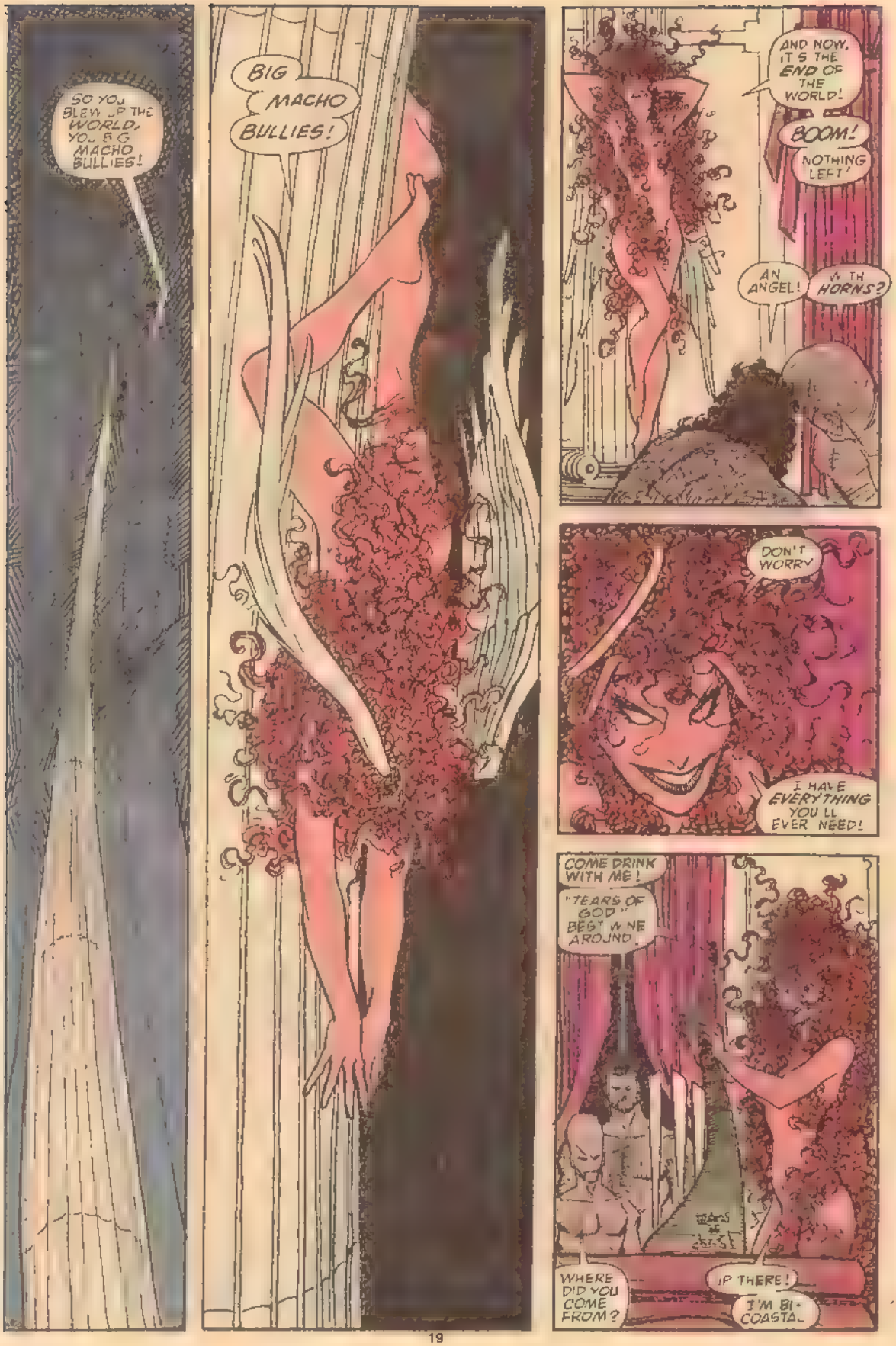


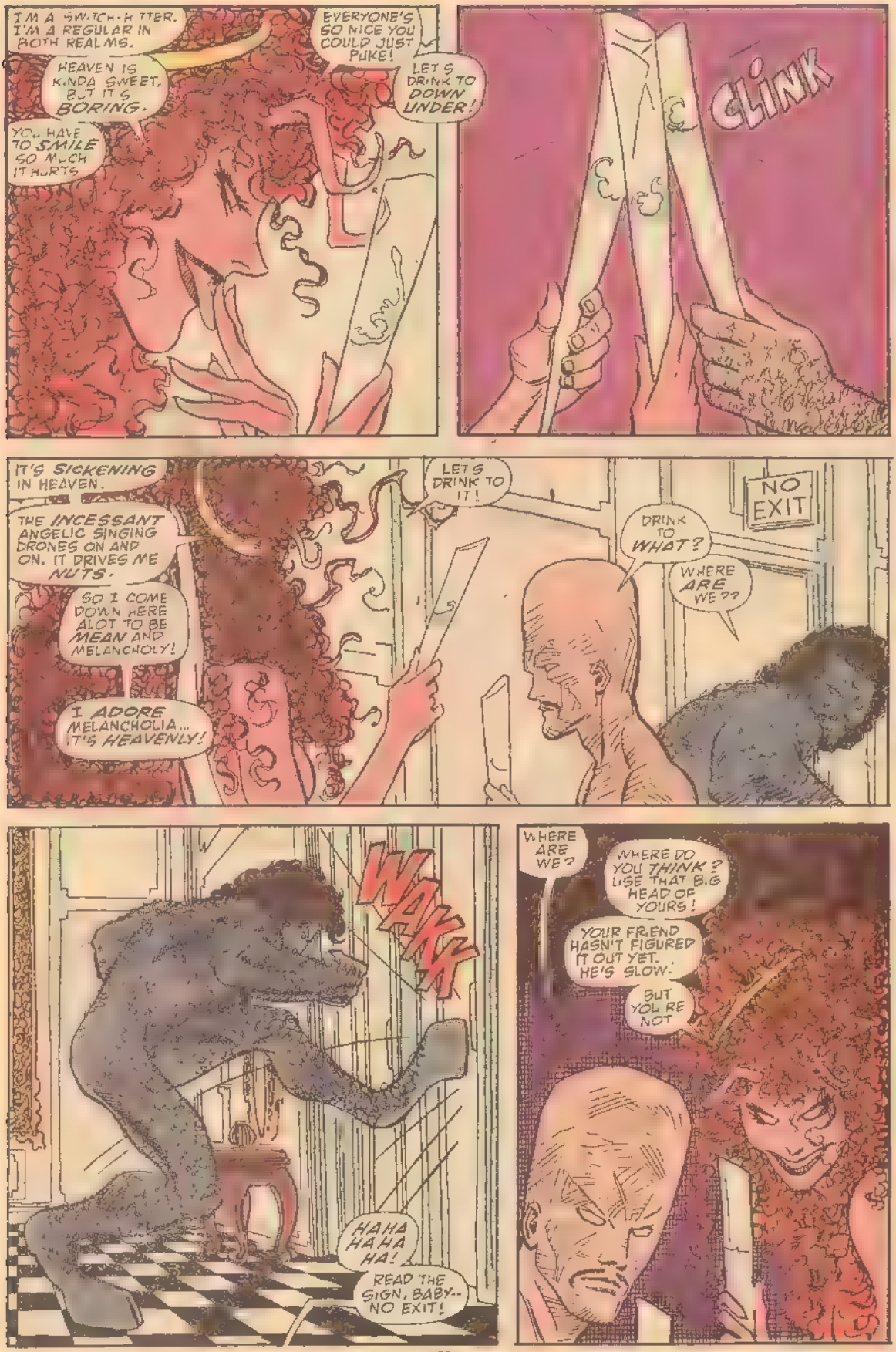
SARTRE
THE STRANGER
GIDE
SARTRE
CAMUS

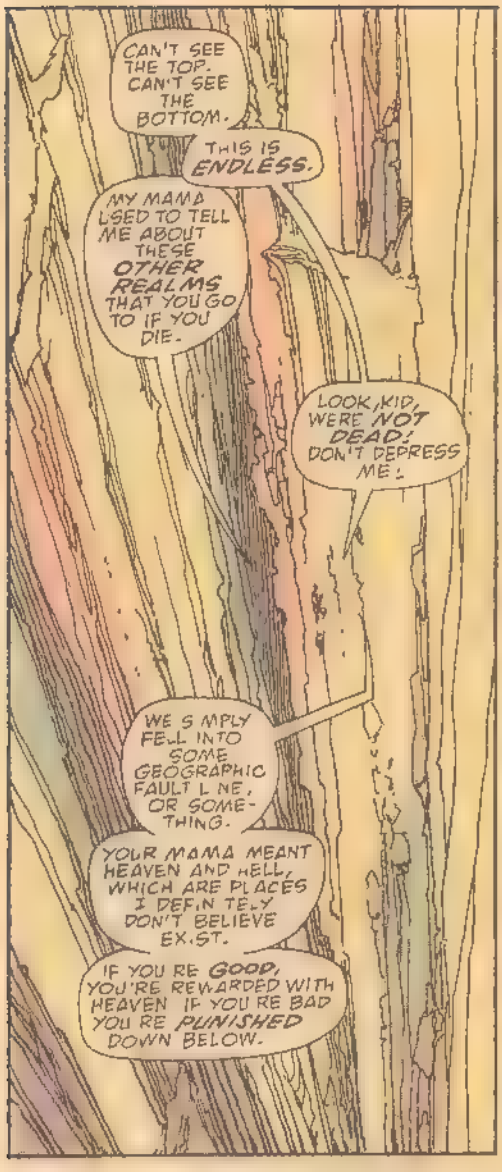

NO EXIT
NO EXIT
NO EXIT

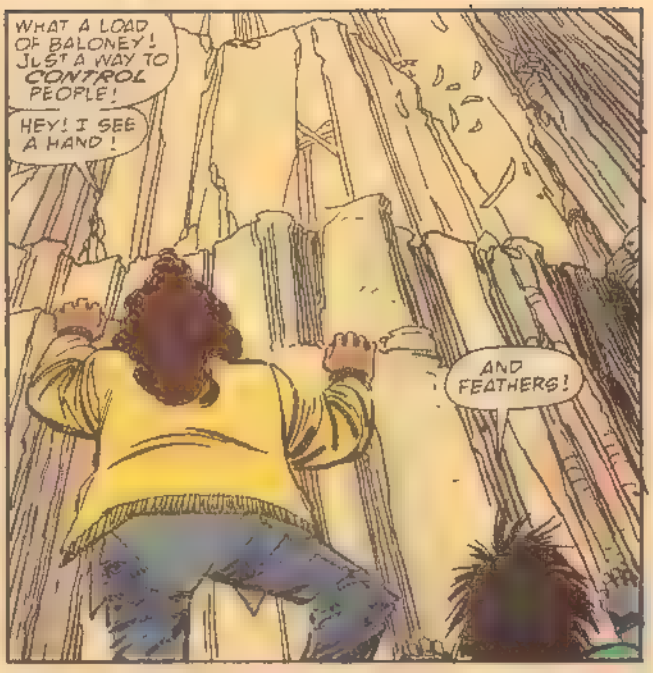

POCK
PING
HUH?
WUZZAT?!

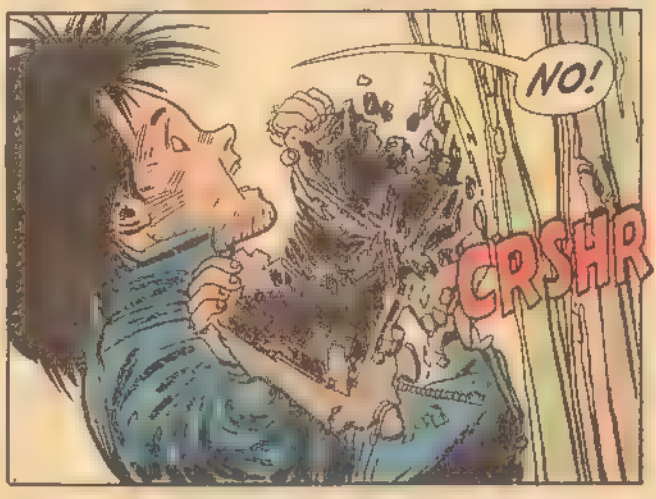

HA HA HA HA HA
THERE'S A WOMAN ON THAT PEDESTAL!


SO YOU BLEW UP THE WORLD, YOU BIG MACHO BULLIES!
BIG MACHO BULLIES!
AND NOW, IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!
BOOM!
NOTHING LEFT!
AN ANGEL!
WITH HORNS?
DON'T WORRY
I HAVE EVERYTHING YOU'LL EVER NEED!
COME DRINK WITH ME!
"TEARS OF GOD" BEST WINE AROUND.
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
UP THERE!
I'M BI-COASTAL

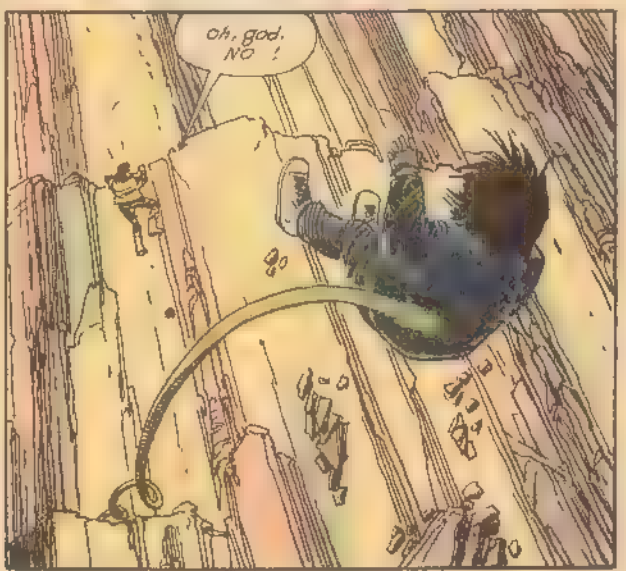

I'M A SWITCH-HITTER. I'M A REGULAR IN BOTH REALMS.
HEAVEN IS KINDA SWEET, BUT IT'S BORING.
YOU HAVE TO SMILE SO MUCH IT HURTS
EVERYONE'S SO NICE YOU COULD JUST PUKE!
LET'S DRINK TO DOWN UNDER!
CLINK
IT'S SICKENING IN HEAVEN.
THE INCESSANT ANGELIC SINGING DRONES ON AND ON. IT DRIVES ME NUTS.
SO I COME DOWN HERE ALOT TO BE MEAN AND MELANCHOLY!
I ADORE MELANCHOLIA... IT'S HEAVENLY!
LET'S DRINK TO IT!
DRINK TO WHAT?
NO EXIT
WHERE ARE WE??
WOKK
HAHA HAHA HA!
READ THE SIGN, BABY-- NO EXIT!
WHERE ARE WE?
WHERE DO YOU THINK? USE THAT BIG HEAD OF YOURS!
YOUR FRIEND HASN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET. HE'S SLOW.
BUT YOU'RE NOT


CAN'T SEE THE TOP. CAN'T SEE THE BOTTOM.
THIS IS ENDLESS.
MY MAMA USED TO TELL ME ABOUT THESE OTHER REALMS THAT YOU GO TO IF YOU DIE.
LOOK, KID, WE'RE NOT DEAD! DON'T DEPRESS ME.
WE SIMPLY FELL INTO SOME GEOGRAPHIC FAULT LINE, OR SOMETHING.
YOUR MAMA MEANT HEAVEN AND HELL, WHICH ARE PLACES I DEFINITELY DON'T BELIEVE EXIST.
IF YOU'RE GOOD, YOU'RE REWARDED WITH HEAVEN. IF YOU'RE BAD YOU'RE PUNISHED DOWN BELOW.


WHAT A LOAD OF BALONEY! JUST A WAY TO CONTROL PEOPLE!
HEY! I SEE A HAND!
AND FEATHERS!


NO!
CRSHR

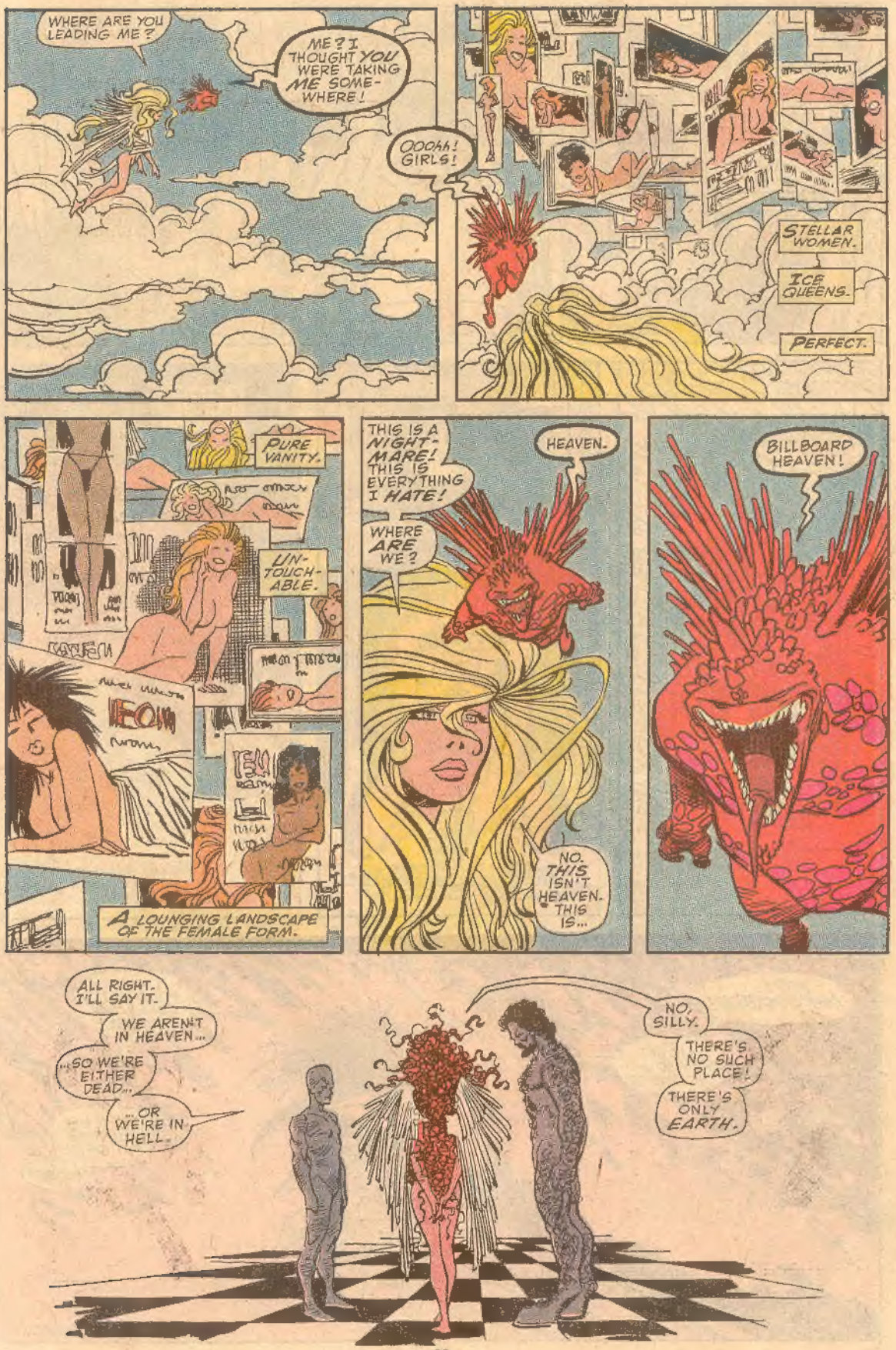
BRANDY!!


oh, god. NO!

BRANDY!
A SNAKE'S GOT ME
I SEE
THANK YOU
WOW. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME PEOPLE THOUGHT OF SNAKES AS EVIL.
SINCE THE SERPENT IN EDEN.
BUT THIS ONE. WOW!
LOOK IT'S A MAN!
GOSH, HE'S
BEASTIE BOYS
AN ANGEL! BRANDY'S AN ANGEL!
YOU THINK?
HE'S GOT A HALO!
YEAH BUT A CROOKED ONE.
I KNOW KISS HIM!

WHAT? I CAN'T
LIKE SLEEPING BEAUTY!
I'M NO PRINCESS!
BESIDES, I HATE THOSE CHILDREN'S MYTHS!
THEY RUIN GIRLS!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A WHITE KNIGHT NO BOY CAN SAVE YOU.
BUT THIS IS BACKWARDS,
FOR ONCE THE GIRL GETS TO SAVE THE BOY!
UM, IT'S BACKWARDS SO IT'S OKAY?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL TRY.
Wha:??
YEAH

I CAN'T FEEL MY FACE.
FROSTBITE
I'VE GOT TO FIND HEAT
THAT PHONE BOOTH ...SMELLS TOO MUCH OF WOOD AND INCENSE.
AND IT'S GOT A CROSS ON TOP.
CRAK
JUST WHAT I NEED.
CRAK
THIS IS A CHURCH CONFESSIONAL.
BUT IT'S ... TOO SMALL. THERE'S NO ROOM FOR A PRIEST.
NO ONE TO CONFESS TO...
H S WILL NEVER WORK
I M TOO COLD, THE WOOD S TOO WET!
I NEED A MIRACLE!


WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?
ME? I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING ME SOMEWHERE!
OOOHH! GIRLS!
STELLAR WOMEN.
ICE QUEENS.
PERFECT.
PURE VANITY.
UNTOUCHABLE.
A LOUNGING LANDSCAPE OF THE FEMALE FORM.
THIS IS A NIGHTMARE! THIS IS EVERYTHING I HATE!
WHERE ARE WE?
HEAVEN.
NO. THIS ISN'T HEAVEN. THIS IS...
BILLBOARD HEAVEN!
ALL RIGHT. I'LL SAY IT.
WE AREN'T IN HEAVEN...
...SO WE'RE EITHER DEAD...
...OR WE'RE IN HELL.
NO, SILLY.
THERE'S NO SUCH PLACE!
THERE'S ONLY EARTH.

WOW!
YOU'RE SO STRONG!
OOOH! I'M IN HEAVEN!
NOT QUITE...
COME ON.
COME ON.
COME ON.
YES.
YES.
YES, YES, YES.
I PRAYED IT WOULD WORK.
I'VE DONE IT.
I MADE FIRE.
NO! IMPOSSIBLE!
WHO HAS CREATED A FLAME??
ONLY MEPHISTO DARE MAKE HELLFIRE!
THIS FLAME MUST BE PUT OUT!!
NOW!
TO BE CONTINUED...!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, heroes! Well, it was bound to happen! Now that Marvel has conquered the publishing world it looks like movie stardom will be next! Believe it or not, a bunch of your bullpen buddies and I have just finished doing a scene for a new feature film starring *Eric Roberts*, who plays a comic book artist! It's an adventure mystery called *"Into Thin Air"* and it should be hitting theaters around the country later this year.

You see, they wanted to show a scene where Roberts is talking to his editor in the comic book bullpen. Instead of cooking up some fictional company, writer/director *Larry Cohen* asked if he could simply bring his camera crew to Marvel's own headquarters! Well, that wasn't possible because it would have taken too long and none of us would have gotten any work done for all that time, but—we did the next best thing! We helped Larry create a set that looks just like our Marvel menagerie. Then, to make it even more realistic, the biggest hams among us actually volunteered to play ourselves during the shooting, so you'll be able to see us in the movie! The only problem is, now that some of our corny crew have gotten a taste of show biz, how do we manage to chain 'em back to their drawing boards again?!!

For those of you who can't stand the suspense, you'll find even more info about this earth-shattering media event in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #80 where I devoted my whole Soapbox page to providing all the delectable details. As for the rest of you, be forewarned! I'll be back again next 'ish with still more items of incalculable insignificance!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM: Let's all wish Epic Comics editor Daring **Dan Chichester** the best of luck as he embarks on a full-time freelance writing career. And while we're at it, let's welcome to the Marvel Universe the following new assistant editors. All the way from California, Gallant **Gary Barnum** has stepped into Slim **Jim DiGiovanna**'s old job of assisting Breathtaking **Bobbie Chase**, while the Slim One has moved to California (was this some sort of swap?). All the way from Hoboken, Delirious **Dan Cuddy** has signed on to be Arachnerd **Jim Salicrup**'s right hand man on all the Spidey titles. Gargantuan **Glenn Herdling** was kicked downstairs to work in our manufacturing department to make sure all the comics are stapled properly, among other important duties. Big **Barry Dutter**, the one-time president of the Committe to Abolish the She-Hulk, has mended his ways and has become Jumbo Jim Salicrup's left hand man on MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, replacing Diligent **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, who sashayed over to our Domestic Licensing Department. Exuberant **Eric Fein** has joined Uncanny **Danny Fingeroth** to bring ALPHA FLIGHT, MOON KNIGHT, and the rest, to new heights of glory. And in case you're wondering about Mad **Marcus McLaurin**, he's just been promoted to Managing Editor to replace **Gregory Wright** who was just promoted to replace the departing Dan Chichester. Now then, Greg's former aide-de-camp Evanescent **Evan Skolnick** has just jumped ship to Scintillating **Sid Jabobson**'s STAR line to replace Lovely **Lisa Trusiani** who has also stepped into the freelance arena. Greg has tapped his former college intern, Sizzling **Suzanne Dell'Orto** to serve as his new assistant. Whew! Let's hope this new crew sticks around a while. It gets a tad confusing trying to explain these office shuffles all the time!

ITEM: Hey, you know how the past few years we've tied all our annuals together into one epic storyline, such as the unforgettable "Atlantis Attacks," or the legendary "Evolutionary War"? Well, this year, we've decided to do a little something different. We'll be doing several shorter multi-parters in our annuals, instead of one great big one. Each story will spread out over three or four annuals, instead of going across the board. The first annual epic will be called "Life Form," in which a new creature is created and goes on to become more and more powerful. As the creature's strength level increases, so does the power level of his opponents! The saga of the life form will be told in this year's PUNISHER, DAREDEVIL, INCREDIBLE HULK, and SILVER SURFER annuals. After "Life Form," look for further annual epics, including a saga connecting the various AVENGERS titles, and one involving the SPIDER-MAN line.

ITEM: For those of you who've been waiting for Mighty Marvel to make a big splash in video games, wait no more! Instead, rush out to your nearest video game store and pick up "The Revenge of Shinobi" from Sega-Genesis. It's an action-packed game featuring none other than. . .the Amazing Spider-Man! Yes, that's right, ol' Web-Head shows up at the sixth level, and gives the player a very hard time. Our own vidiot, **Craig Anderson**, recommends the game very highly, saying "the graphics are incredible." Craig added that Spidey is "very hard to beat." That should come as no surprise to any of Spidey's villains! "Revenge of Shinobi" features Spidey at his web-slinging, wall-crawling best. But "Revenge of Shinobi" is but the beginning of our assault on the video field. There will be more to come in the months ahead. Who says this isn't the Mighty Marvel Age of Video Games?

MARVEL Checklist

- ☐ AVENGERS WEST COAST #59
- ☐ CAMP CANDY #2
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #371
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #281
- ☐ NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER #3
- ☐ STEELTOWN ROCKERS #3
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #65
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #262
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #51
- ☐ BLACK KNIGHT #1
- ☐ THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK #16
- ☐ STALKERS #3
- ☐ ELSEWHERE PRINCE #2
- ☐ THE PUNISHER ANNUAL #3—"Lifeform" begins!
- ☐ THE PUNISHER MAGAZINE #11
- ☐ X-MEN SPOTLIGHT: STAR-JAMMERS Limited Series #2
- ☐ CRITICAL MASS Limited Series #5
- ☐ EXCALIBUR ANNUAL #3—By Claremont and Leonardi
- ☐ OPEN SPACE #3
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA Movie Adaptation Graphic Album #1
- ☐ ALF #30
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #351
- ☐ AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #33
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #90
- ☐ HEATHCLIFF #48
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #66
- ☐ THE NTH MAN #13
- ☐ QUASAR #11
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #85
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #2
- ☐ THE SAGA OF THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH Limited Series #2
- ☐ POWER PACK #56
- ☐ WOLVERINE #25
- ☐ INTERFACE #4
- ☐ DAREDEVIL ANNUAL #6—"Lifeform" Part 2!
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD #174
- ☐ STRIP #7
- ☐ PLASTIC FORKS #3
- ☐ IRON MAN: ARMOR WARS Trade Paperback
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #318
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #233
- ☐ G.I. JOE #101
- ☐ GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #1—The star-spanning saga begins!
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #370—Will the green Hulk return?
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #89
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #238
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #34
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #38
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #52
- ☐ WHAT IF. . .#14—What if the original Captain Marvel had lived?
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #23
- ☐ HERO Limited Series #2
- ☐ ROBOCOP #4
- ☐ SHIELD #12
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK ANNUAL #16—"Lifeform" Part 3!
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #160
- ☐ FANTASY ZONE #8
- ☐ THE DESTROYER #9
- ☐ NIGHT BREED #3
- ☐ STREET POET RAY #2—More rap haiku for you!
- ☐ ALF Graphic Album #1—Reprinting ALF's first 3 issues!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #341
- ☐ IRON MAN #257
- ☐ THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #165
- ☐ THOR #418
- ☐ THE TRANSFORMERS #67
- ☐ X-FACTOR #55—Arch-Angel berserk!
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #48
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #17
- ☐ CLOAK AND DAGGER #12—Will Dagger's sight return?
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #18
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #15—The trial of Marc Spector epic!
- ☐ THE 'NAM #45
- ☐ THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #19
- ☐ SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #3—"Lifeform" Concludes!
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #51—A 48-page Silver Surfer epic!
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #39
- ☐ MARVEL REQUIRER #3
- ☐ STRIP #8
- ☐ AKIRA #20
- ☐ BLACK WIDOW Graphic Novel—By Conway and Freeman!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: editor—MIKE ROCKWITZ: assistant editor
% MARVEL COMICS GROUP—387 Park Avenue South—New York New York—10016
Attention correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear DAREDEVIL-ers,

In the beginning, it was so simple. Skip was a conscience-less businessman/drug runner. Daredevil and Brandy were the good guys, even if Brandy's motives were uncertain.

After issue #274 I'm not so sure anymore. When Skip said "You're all casting stones without looking at yourselves," I got the feeling he was talking to me. Skip and Daredevil both break the law, both with what they feel are good reasons. The fact that I agree with Daredevil and not with Skip doesn't necessarily make one right and the other wrong. Who the heck do I think I am? Thanks for putting me in my place.

Dave Klingbeil
1596 East 115th St. #405
Cleveland, OH 44106

Perhaps in some secret part of ourselves, we long for those simple days when drug runners were drug runners and girls with the names of alchoholic beverages were damsels in distress, Dave. Then again, we all thrive on the complexities of life that are woven into a really exciting and multi-dimensional story, too. The choice is black and white: we think you'll opt for the excitement and unpredictability of the gray every time! What do you think?

Dear Ralph,

I think Ann must have the best "Acts of Vengeance" crossover I have read so far. Just as with the "Fall of the Mutants" and "Inferno," she gives us a much more personal and intense rendition. We were given the Dr. Doom and Ultron story while still keeping all the threads intact that were left over from the last issue.

It's hard to stop myself from just heaping praise, without explaining why. But, put simply, DAREDEVIL is a comic book about people. We have people who are good, and people who are bad. Most comic books have these, but DAREDEVIL also has people who are neither good nor bad, with a thin line drawn between them. Up until now, Skip has been a villain, but now he feels guilt for the creation of Number Nine and wants to help. This certainly doesn't make him "nice," but it does make him human. Again, Brandy is not really a likable person, but she feels things with an intensity denied others. But she is a very unhappy and mixed-up woman.

Of course the highlight of all the recent stories has been Number Nine. Since her introduction a few issues ago, she has been a star. A virtual child in a woman's body, she is truly a tragic character. The interplay between her and Brandy has made these stories special. I'm sure that many women are torn between the two extremes that each represents. Exploring issues such as feminism is not something that you expect from comics, but anything that expands the medium and provides thought-provoking reading ought to be encouraged. Of course, this also has the bonus of giving DAREDEVIL a unique feel, dark and moody perhaps, but also positive and exciting.

Playing Ultron not just as a villain, but also as a victim gave the story an extra dimension. There was a perverse sense of logic that ran through all of his thoughts. Number Nine seems to think in the same kind of way, accepting everything at face value, and then later on, finding conflicting conclusions. All in all, it was probably the most convincing interpretation of Ultron that I've ever read. A lot of power, with a certain undercurrent of frailty and humanity.

Finally, let's keep Daredevil living on the edge, but giving us an odd smile now and again.

Bud Smith
25 Mowbray Rd.
Richmond, Surrey
England TW10 7NQ

Living on the edge can make for a dramatic read, Bud, but it sure doesn't do wonders for your instep. As long as Ann continues to conceive such fascinating additions to Marvels annual crossover ideas, we'll foot the bill for her podiatrist. Ahem . . . we didn't make that joke. You didn't read it. Just move on.

Dear Devils,

Thank you for bringing back the Inhumans. I have recently been collecting old issues of AMAZING ADVENTURES and THE INHUMANS. It is a pleasure to see them once again. It has given DAREDEVIL a breath of fresh air. How about Matt having an affair with Medusa? He likes redheads, you know!

I just finished reading #274, and I'm happy to see the old Ultron up to new tricks. Maybe somewhere in this confusion, DD can meet up with Hank Pym.

Bradley M. Hamlin
1100 Howe Ave. #377
Sacramento, CA 95825

Matt's alleged affection for females with red tresses is much overstated, Bradley. He *really* goes for girls in red *dresses*. There's real Elektra-city there, if you know what we mean. Besides, Medusa is a married woman—and while her husband is the strong, silent type, you definitely don't want him yelling at hornhead! Trust us.

Dear Devils,

I like the new Ultron. His pseudo-logic is a refreshing change of pace from his usual absolute certainty (and it's so funny). The comparison between him and Number Nine as creations was exquisite, especially in light of the on-going debate over Number Nine's "progmmming." I doubt that you're weird enough to have Ultron-13 and Number Nine get married next issue, but with the weird way you've tested the limits of this series recently, I wonder.

What is Skip's motive for offering help to the Inhumans? He is *not* afraid of them. This is a man who ran back into a burning plane for the guns and cocaine he was smuggling. Is it because of the child they seek, and the fact that his "child," Number Nine, was taken from him?

Dave Klingbeil
1596 East 115th Street
Cleveland, OH 44106

For now, Skip's motives, or lack thereof, are his own, Dave—but don't be so quick to rule out fear. He may have been intimidated by beings such as the Inhumans, wouldn't you?

Hey, Horn-heads!

I basically liked the storyline in issue #274, but I have a few questions for ya. First, have you guys become so unoriginal that you have to come up with names for characters out of old Beatles songs? What happened to numbers one through eight? And, why did you put what what should've been next month's cover on this month's book?

Matthew Roffman
1200 North Port Drive
Sarasota, FL 34242

Check your back issues, Matt—we gave you a clear view of the fate of some of Number Nine's "sisters." Of course, we won't have so ready an excuse later. As for your cover query, we put the cover to #274 on #274, because we already had an equally dynamic and exciting cover slated for #275—and anyway, if we switched them, everyone'd get their numbering all confused.

Dear Ralph,

It's a nice comparison to be able to make, but something similar is happening with Ann Nocenti's DD stories as happened during Miller's last visit. The fact that the book lies within the Marvel Universe and is centered around a "super hero" is becoming irrelevant. The whole of the issue, even with the obligatory fight scene, was filled with people talking about themselves and each other. Even Ultron, and brilliantly!

But at the same time, the only extraordinary abilities that were sensibly used this issue were those of Number Nine, enabling her to survive Ultron's blast, and giving rise to some foreign emotions in the robot. It's as though the book is hovering between being serious and being about super heroes. It's very difficult to combine the two, but sometimes you pull it off. It's certainly a book that an older reader (like me) can enjoy, but it falls into oversimplistic terms sometimes. I'll stick with Ultron's discussions with himself and Number Nine!

Malcome Bourne
6 Craigwell Road
Prestwich, Manchester
England M25 8EF

So will we, Malcome! While we may not agree that the super hero is obsolete (hey, you're talking about our livelihood here!) we will agree that the potential for the kinds of stories we can tell in these pages is almost limitless! Of course, we'll keep striving for those that fall in the range of "terrific" to "really, really, really terrific." We're not picky.